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**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of Mehrdad HASSANZADEH, Frédéric MALPIECE  
and Dominique MERCIER entitled  
"LIGHTNING ARRESTOR BASED ON ELECTRICAL VARISTORS"  
Assignee: ALSTOM HOLDINGS  
Our Reference: Q78184



Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Continuation Application of pending prior application Serial No. 09/869,097 (Confirmation No. 9866) filed June 22, 2001, by Mehrdad HASSANZADEH, Frédéric MALPIECE and Dominique MERCIER entitled "LIGHTNING ARRESTOR BASED ON ELECTRICAL VARISTORS."

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims and abstract, two (2) sheet(s) of drawings, and a copy of the Declaration as filed in the prior application. Also enclosed are a Preliminary Amendment and a copy of the Assignment previously recorded in the prior application as of August 29, 2001, on Reel 12168 at Frame 690.

The prior application is assigned to Examiner Donghai D. Nguyen in Group Art Unit 3729.

Please amend the specification by inserting the following sentence before the first line thereof on page 1:

This is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/869,097 filed June 22, 2001, which is a National Stage Entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/FR00/02930, filed on October 20, 2000, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.



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Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
France	99 13 270	October 25, 1999

The priority documents were filed in International Application No. PCT/FR00/02930.

**After entry of the concurrently filed Preliminary Amendment**, the Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>27</u>	-	<u>20</u>	=	<u>7</u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u>\$126.00</u>
Independent claims	<u>2</u>	-	<u>3</u>	=	<u>0</u>	x	\$86.00	=	<u>0</u>
Base Fee									<u>\$770.00</u>

<b>TOTAL FILING FEE DUE</b>	<b><u>\$896.00</u></b>
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The statutory filing fee of **\$896.00** will be submitted at a later date. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all other required fees (except the Filing Fee, Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is also attached.

A Petition for Extension of Time of three months with appropriate fee is being filed concurrently herewith in parent application Serial No. 09/869,097. This application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

**SUGHRUE MION, PLLC**

Attorneys for Applicants

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WASHINGTON OFFICE  
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Enclosures